

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00783 200954Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 OMB-01 AGRE-00 AID-05  
EB-08 ICA-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 /062 W  
-----112681 201000Z /21

P R 200900Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9432  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0783

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, LA  
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY FOOD AID TO LAOS

REF: ROME 13216

SUMMARY: (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL): UNDP/VIENTIANE IS STILL OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TOTAL FOOD AID NEED IN LAOS IS 113,000 TONS, AS OFFICIALLY ESTIMATED BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT. WITH 80,000 TONS PLEDGED OR RECEIVED (INCLUDING OUR AID), A SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 33,000 TONS STILL EXISTS. WFP/ROME, HOWEVER, MAY BEWORKING ON NEW INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT INDICATE THAT 80,000 TONS IS ENOUGH AND THAT THERE IS THUS NO SHORTFALL. WE RECOMMEND THAT IF THERE IS SUCH INFORMATION, WFP/ROME BE URGED TO SHARE IT WITH ALL CONCERNED. END SUMMARY (END CONFIDENTIAL).

1. (BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.) THE CHARGE DISCUSSED THE LAO FOOD AID NEED WITH THE ACTING UNDP RESREP JULY 20. THE ACTING RESREP SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WAS STILL PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT ESTIMATE OF THE NATIONAL NEED FOR EMERGENCY DROUGHT AID UNTIL THE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1978 HARVEST. THIS NEED WAS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00783 200954Z

OFFICIALLY SET AT 113,000 TONS.

2. THE ACTING RESREP CONFIRMED THAT WFP/ROME HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE U.S. 10,000-TON RICE AID COMMITMENT WOULD BE USED TO FULFILL PREVIOUS WFP COMMITMENTS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT WFP HAD TOLD HIM THAT WFP WAS CONTEMPLATING NO FURTHER ASSISTANCE AT THE PRESENT TIME. AS A RESULT, FOOD AID OR PLEDGES OF FOOD AID IN HAND

AMOUNTED TO APPROXIMATELY 80,000 TONS. A 33,000 TON SHORTFALL  
THUS STILL EXISTED IF ONE ACCEPTED THE OFFICIAL LAO ESTIMATE OF A  
113,000 TON TOTAL NEED.

3. THE ACTING RESREP SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A MESSAGE TO  
WFP/ROME TO ASK IF THAT OFFICE HAD RECEIVED SOME NEW INFORMATION  
WHICH MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THEM TO REVISE THEIR ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL  
LAO NEED DOWNWARD. (END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.)

4. FYI (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL): THE FORMER WFP REPRESENTATIVE HERE  
IN VIENTIANE IS BELIEVED TO BE IN ROME OR TO HAVE JUST PASSED  
THROUGH ROME. THIS OFFICIAL WAS PERHAPS THE MOST WIDELY TRAVELED  
UN OFFICIAL WITHIN LAOS AND THUS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH  
RESPECT TO LAO FOOD DEFICITS AND LAO FOOD AID NEEDS. HE NEVER  
QUESTIONED THE REALITY OF THE EMERGENCY HERE, BUT HE DID QUESTION  
THE MAGNITUDE OF THE NEED. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT HE MAY HAVE TOLD  
WFP/ROME THAT DESPITE THE OFFICIAL LAO ESTIMATE, 80,000 TONS OF  
EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MEET THE NEED.

5. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO FIND OUT IF  
WFP/ROME IS IN FACT PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS OF NEW AND BETTER  
INFORMATION. IF SO, WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE URGED TO SHARE THIS  
INFORMATION OFFICIALLY WITH US, WITH UNDP/VIENTIANE, AND WITH THE  
LAO GOVERNMENT. AS IT NOW STANDS, UNDP/VIENTIANE AND THE USG ARE IN  
A POSITION OF POSSIBLY HAVING TO TAKE THE FULL BRUNT OF LAO DIS-  
SATISFACTION WHEN THE REAL CAUSE IS A DECISION ON THE PART OF WFP/  
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00783 200954Z

ROME TO REVISE ITS ESTIMATE OF THE LAO FOOD AID NEED.  
ROBERTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00783  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780297-1222  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 ROME 13216  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 1933187  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EMERGENCY FOOD AID TO LAOS  
**TAGS:** EAID, LA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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